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STAFF NEWS

WASHINGTON

and BELTSVILLE

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CONSUMING INTEREST

The consumer, who like John Q. Public is usually pictured by cartoonists in a lost, sad-eyed manner, is getting some special attention at USDA these days. Two new committees are getting under way to coordinate and improve consumer materials of the Department.

A Department working committee on consumer education met May 2 and again on May 4. Dr. Coons, Irene Wolgamot, Kay Cronister, and Mary Swickard represented the Bureau.

May 8-9 there's a meeting of a new consumer advisory committee for the Department. Dr. Coons and Mrs. Wolgamot are attending this gathering. Non-USDA people on the committee are Carleton Wright, New York; Lucy Sheive, Massachusetts; Mary Hulsey, Alabama; Tom Cole, South Carolina--all of Extension; Ruth Buckley, University of Tennessee; Helen Robertson, Cleveland Plain Dealer; Christine Sadler, McCall's Magazine.

FLYING DOWN TO RIO

Fabulous Rio de Janeiro will be the destination of Dr. Stiebeling when she takes off from Washington Airport the last day of May. Dr. Stiebeling is the United States delegate to the FAO conference on nutrition in the Americas--with special emphasis on Latin America.

Two years ago, you remember, Dr. Stiebeling went to Montevideo for a similar FAO regional conference. The Rio meeting is a follow-up of Montevideo.

Dr. Stiebeling's two advisers for the

THE 23RD OF JUNE

Put a big X on your calendar and save the 23rd of June for big doin's. Everyone's invited--the entire Bureau staff.

The occasion? Don't breathe a word but it's one of those glorious American institutions that calls for crepe soles, the thermos jug, an out-door yen, the ball and bat, and vocal chords all tuned up for some firelight harmony. More details next issue.

OVER THE TOP

With a generosity we can be proud of, the Bureau went over the top of its goal for Red Cross contributions this year. The goal: \$772. Our contribution: \$920. Nineteen percent over, reports Sadye Adelson, Bureau chairman. This year compares favorably with last year when we were even more generous. Last year's collection was \$939, 21 percent over the goal.

conference are Marjorie Heseltine of Children's Bureau and Sue Taylor, formerly with Farm Security and now in Venezuela with one of Nelson Rockefeller's groups working for economic and social development.

On her flight south, Dr. Stiebeling will stop in Puerto Rico and she'll return by way of Guatemala City to see work being done by the Department's OFAR and the Central American Institute of Nutrition. Also she'll stop in Turialba, Costa Rica, to visit Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Return to D. C.: about June 20.

BEHIND THE SCENES

To make a success of the important Mid-century White House Conference on Children and Youth, which meets in December, there's a lot of hard work to be done ahead of time. Already busy helping to lay the groundwork are Dr. Stiebeling and Dr. Coons. Dr. Stiebeling is chairman of the Conference's Advisory Council for Federal Government Participation. Dr. Coons is also a member of this council.

More groundwork is being laid by Sadye Adelson, Esther Phipard, and Mollie Orshansky. Theirs is the task of helping prepare preliminary reports and collecting statistical material. Anyway, BHNHE is assuredly having a part in this mighty significant conference.

SWEET-SOUR NOTE

A word about oranges, grapefruit, lemons, and limes. Faith Clark's latest release based on the 1948 food consumption survey deals with these citrus fruits. And oranges come out on top in widest use among the families.

Other findings--3 cents of a city family's food dollar goes for citrus compared with 5 cents for other fruits together. No increase in overall amount of citrus fruit used since 1942 --but canned citrus fruit and juices went up while fresh citrus went down.

AVEZ-VOUS ENTENDU?

Have you heard--to put it in English --that Dr. Stiebeling recently transcribed a radio address for Radiodiffusion Francaise, French Broadcasting Company? For this international audience on International University of the Air, she discussed trends in family food consumption in the U. S. The Radiodiffusion people also had the talk translated into French for broadcast purposes.

FOR 'FAMILY FARE'--ORCHIDS

"May I tell you how excellent the content and how attractive the lay-out and illustrations are..."--Pauline Murrah, Director, Food and Nutrition Service, American Red Cross.

"I hope that everything possible will be done to secure wide distribution of this booklet."--Regina Frisbie, Director, Department of Home Economics Services, Kellogg Company.

"It is truly a worthwhile and much needed home food service bible."--Mary T. Kavanaugh, Test Kitchen Supervisor, Board of Education, Chicago.

"...Extremely well done."--Laura Lane, Associate Editor, Country Gentleman.

"I find the book a wealth of information. It is extremely well done."--Veronica Volpe, food editor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

"You are to be congratulated upon your publication...It is splendid."--Mrs. Catherine Ford, Librarian, General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"The ninety-six page booklet is so excellent it should win friends and influence voters in this election year." --The New York Times, Feb. 28, 1950.

"It is quite worthy of the heritage of popularity established by 'Aunt Sammy'" --The Christian Science Monitor, March 18, 1950.

MISS HEWSTON ELECTED

Miss Elizabeth Hewston, chemist in foods and nutrition, has been elected to membership in the American Institute of Nutrition. The Institute is a professional organization of qualified persons in the nutrition field.

A LITTLE MORE LIGHT

It's a strong searchlight that the family economics folks wield when they unearth the facts about the way Americans are eating. Here...or there...they say...people are not getting enough to eat or enough of certain nutrients. And so the first bout with poor diets is won--finding out where they exist and in what measure.

Sadye Adelson and Ennis Blake handled the searchlight in the Bureau's first published study of rural family diets since the war. Results of their survey are just off the press--"Diets of Families in the Open Country...A Georgia and an Ohio County, Summer 1945."

Springtime and two rural counties in Minnesota are going to give us a few more answers, however. A new small-scale study got under way in Meeker and Wright counties the last week in April to see how these farm people are eating this season of the year. Minnie Belle McIntosh, who recently finished the Bureau's clothing studies in the two counties, is remaining in Litchfield, Minn., to direct the food survey.

Minneapolis-St. Paul families have been surveyed all four seasons. The new farm study will provide a comparison of how Minnesota city folks and Minnesota farm folks eat in the spring.

RINGS AND THINGS

"Well, I'm just going to have to buy some evaporated apple rings," we heard one staff member say after leafing through Mary Kirkpatrick's new leaflet, Recipes for Evaporated Apples Rings. You may feel that way too when you see the directions for apple-cheese casserole, Dutch apple cake, and spicy apple-topped muffins.

You should find evaporated apple rings in some stores right now--and it's handy not to have to peel or slice. Evaporated apples, by the way, have more moisture than dried apples and so they taste more flavorful and fresh.

TELEVISION COMES TO BELTSVILLE

A "coming out" party--sans refreshments--was held Thursday afternoon, April 20, for the new television set in the Beltsville information office. Occasion was another airing of clothing and textile's "Let's Make a Dress" series on NBC's color test show.

Members of the Bureau staff and others at the Center who wish to study television shows in connection with their work are welcome to use the set. Viewing TV shows in your own field is an excellent way to learn both the techniques and pitfalls--for those who may have to present a TV show some day.

The set is adjusted for both Washington and Baltimore stations. You'll find the set in room 119--Mrs. Rodenwold's office.

FOR DREAM HOUSES....A FOUNDATION

Another RMA project is finding out some things we've always needed to know. This time it's on farm housing--the kind of houses farm families already have, the kind they'd like, and what they've got to put in them--from ice tea glasses to fishing rods and quilts.

Eventually, the whole country will be covered but first findings come out of the Northeast--in a green-bound book that will surely be a handy reference for our housing and equipment folks. And housing people everywhere! The Bureau and state experiment stations cooperated. And the result is entitled "Farm Housing in the Northeast."

First use of the book is for architects and home economists. They can incorporate the findings about farm family needs and wants in farmhouse designs.

On storage--all the findings about clothing and food and equipment which farm families have to store--it will take longer to put these facts to work. But laboratory studies will show precisely how much space is needed for these items.

SKIM MILK--TAKE A BOW

That slightly condescending attitude we sometimes have towards skim milk isn't exactly justified. Not when you consider that taking the fat from milk removes none of the valuable protein, calcium, or B vitamins. So skim or nonfat milk is a happy and economical answer for countries with inadequate milk supply and poor refrigeration facilities. It's an answer too for much of Latin America.

That's the burden of the Bureau's message in a new leaflet with a title that puts even our most technical treatises to shame--"La leche en polvo sin grasa hace una bebida nutritiva." OFAR translated our statement into Spanish and is now distributing it in Latin American countries.

Principal problem in publication was clearing the Spanish language version in our English-speaking Bureau. A Spanish-speaking volunteer in the person of Dr. Coons finally did the job--with help from her Spanish dictionary.

MAY WE PRESENT--

Two new film projectors now belonging to the Bureau!

Projector No. 1--for 2 x 2 slides and slide films...300-watt...lightweight and portable...kept in Mrs. Rodenwold's office in Beltsville...ask her if you want to use it. Can be borrowed for downtown or out-of-town use.

Projector No. 2--for 2 x 2 slides but not slide films...1000-watt and strong enough to use in a daylight room without pulling shades...also portable...can be used for large groups, even in South Building auditorium...kept downtown in information art unit...can be borrowed for Beltsville use.

INTRODUCING--

Fourteen new staff members.

Elizabeth Stephens is the new clerk typist in the Chief's Office.

Joyce Pauley, clerk typist, has joined the administration division.

In family economics, Mrs. Ethel McArthur is a new clerk and Dr. Day Monroe, former chief of the division, is a consultant on special assignment.

Dr. Mildred Adams has joined the food and nutrition staff as a biochemist. A Smith and Columbia U graduate, Dr. Adams has been research director and vice-president in charge of research at Takamine Laboratory, Inc., manufacturer of enzymes at Clifton, N. J.

Other new food and nutrition staffers are Edna Gower, clerk typist; Donegan Mann, statistician; Mrs. Katherine Schiff, chemist; and Harriet J. Wright, nutrition specialist.

New housing specialist in housing and equipment is Anna Wood, who comes to us from Washington State College where she was responsible for that state's portion of the Western Regional Farm Housing Project. Miss Wood went to Central Wesleyan in Missouri and Iowa State.

Helen Hailstorks has joined the information division downtown as file clerk and Phyllis Hoyle is the new clerk typist in the Beltsville information office.

New to textiles and clothing are Jeanne M. Lang, scientific aide; and Lucy Whiteside, home economist.

WHITHER AND WHY

NOTE: Official travel only, including also trips where leave but not travel pay is granted.

Esther Batchelder--to Hartford, Conn., March 20-25 to attend meeting of Connecticut Nutrition Committee; to Philadelphia April 10-14 for American Chemical Society meeting.

Elizabeth Beveridge--to New York City April 26 to attend meeting of electrical women's roundtable workshop.

Faith Clark--to Urbana, Ill., to attend conference of Extension nutrition specialists April 10-12.

Emma Clinkscales--to visit schools in Michigan March 13-23 to conduct studies on nutritive value, costs, and food used in school lunches.

Elsie Dawson and Gladys Gilpin--to Baltimore May 12 for food technology meeting on food quality control.

Elsie Dawson and Howard Reynolds--to Chicago May 22-26 for meeting of Institute of Food Technology.

Elsie Docterman and Milicent Hathaway--to Berkeley, Calif., March 30 to April 13 to attend regional meeting of RMA technical committee for nutrition research.

Verz Goddard--to Chicago March 21-26 to attend research conference of American Meat Institute and visit contract research in progress on RMA beef study.

Margaret Goldsmith--to Rio de Janeiro this coming August as official delegate to Fifth International Congress of Microbiology, representing the Society of American Bacteriologists.

Elizabeth Handy--to visit schools in Utah April 3-17 to conduct studies on nutritive value, costs, and food used in school lunches.

Mildred S. Howard--to Atlanta, Ga., March 13-17 to attend meeting of RMA southern housing technical committee; again to Atlanta for housing committee meeting April 10-15.

Rosalind Lifquist--to Madison, Wis., April 1 to 10 to attend meeting of technical committee on potato marketing; to Atlantic City April 24-25 to speak on food budgets before home economists attending National Conference of Social and Public Welfare Workers.

Alfred Macormac--to Fonatana, Tenn., in the Great Smokies, April 26-28 to attend meeting of Fiber Society under auspices of University of Tennessee.

Day Monroe of Topeka, Kan.--to Washington, D. C. for two weeks in March to collaborate with Gertrude Weiss and others on chapter of forthcoming USDA report appraising technological advances in agriculture and home economics. Will return in summer to complete work.

Enid Sater Ross--to Ames, Iowa, early in May for subcommittee meeting on research and training of American Home Economics Association.

Pelagia Schultz--to Federal Visual Aids Workshop here in Washington (Naval Gun Factory) April 24-28. Lynn Myers also attended sessions.

Hazel Stiebeling, Callie Mae Coons, Esther Phipard, Frank Csonka, Milicent Hathaway, Madelyn Womack, Verz Goddard, Lois Hallman, Robert Kahn, Elizabeth Hewston, Elizabeth Callison--to Atlantic City April 17-21 to attend sessions of Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Miss Hewston, Mrs. Callison, and Dr. Csonka presented papers.

Hazel Stiebeling--to Oklahoma City May 15-17 to attend joint meeting of Southern Extension and Experiment Station directors and USDA administrators.

Lenore Sater Thye--to Chicago March 29-April 1 to attend meeting of RMA farm structures committee.

PASSED--MORE BREAD TESTS

Some schools make their own bread for school lunches. The new nutritious breads developed by the Bureau's school lunch laboratory are designed for these schools.

But other schools buy their bread from the bakery. And how to make the new rich-with-nonfat-dry-milk breads available to these schools was once puzzling the school lunch folks. New tests just completed in Baltimore now promise, however, that bakers can market the Bureau breads to schools and other institutions with success.

Seals of approval came from two sources--the baking company which tested the breads and children and adults who tested it at 43 schools and 3 hospitals. Apparently the bread was well-liked. A hospital dietitian, who was not informed about the experiment at all, telephoned the bakery to praise the bread delivered that day and ask for the same bread in the future.

THE BUREAU'S OWN POINT FOUR

When President Truman first started talking about sending our technology overseas--glibly termed Point Four--USDA people nodded knowingly for in its own small way Point Four was already under way around the Department.

The Bureau's information office has its own little Point Four program geared to foreign visitors who stop by to take some of our bulletins back home with them. Irma Horsey and Genevieve Cruger help distribute these bulletins to inquiring visitors, who come from all parts of the world.

Just a few of the people who've been by recently to carry BHNHE findings in food and clothing and housing back to students and professional associates: Lucinne Joly and J. Pirmez of Belgium; Melania Guerrero and Beatriz Menicuis of the Philippine Women's University in

Manila; M. D. Paul, president of a teacher's college in Tanjore, South India; Ilse Conn and Dorothea Blessing, Bremen, Germany.

And then there's Zelta Rodenwold's own Point Four program of showing foreign visitors around Beltsville. But that's another--longer--story.

TV FINALE

With their spring series of television shows behind them, Margaret Smith and Shirley Johnstone probably wouldn't presume to tell you whether you can teach sewing by TV. The series is winding up with a show on special sewing problems May 2 and a fashion show on May 4 exhibiting dresses women have made at home.

Some answers as to what the sewing series did accomplish should be forthcoming from a cooperative Extension-BAE survey getting under way soon as the series is over. Of the women who indicated interest in the program by telephoning for bulletins, some 300 will be interviewed personally.

And while homemakers gained know-how about sewing from the TV series, clothing and textiles added some know-how about television. There's new familiarity with the problems presented by TV lights and cameras, the need for larger, more visible screen views, and organization of material for TV.

SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION

From a story on visit of Mrs. Amori Yamamoto, head of women's Extension work in Japan, in The Christian Science Monitor, March 27, 1950.

"After spending a full day at Beltsville, Maryland, in the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Mrs. Yamamoto asked staff members, 'How do you get your government to give you appropriations for all this fine work?'"